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1. An encoding method of deformation information of a 3-Dimensional (3D) object, in which information on vertices forming the shape of the 3D object is described by a key framing method for performing deformation of the 3D object, the encoding method comprising steps of:

- (a) extracting keys indicating positions of key frames on a time axis, key values indicating characteristics information of key frames, and relation information, by parsing node information of the 3D object;
- (b) generating vertex connectivity information from the related information;
- (c) generating differential values for each of the keys from which temporal data redundancy is to be removed, and key values from which spatiotemporal data redundancy is to be removed, based on the vertex connectivity information;
- (d) quantizing the differential values; and
- (e) removing redundancy among bits and generating compressed bit stream through entropy encoding, by receiving the quantized keys and key values.

2. The encoding method of claim 1, wherein in step (a) node information is divided into a Coordinate Interpolator (CI) node and an IndexFaceSet (IFS) node, and field data formed with keys and key values are extracted from the CI node and Coordinate Index (Cidx) field data is extracted from the IFS node

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3. The encoding method of claim 2, wherein in step (b) the Cldx field data extracted from the IFS node is received as the related information and Breadth First Search (BFS) information for defining spatial data correlation among vertices  
25 is formed as the vertex connectivity information.

4. The encoding method of claim 3, wherein in step (b) the Cldx field data is received and stored in a queue for each vertex, and the BFS information is generated based on whether or not each vertex is visited through the queue.  
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5. The encoding method of claim 1, wherein the step (c) further comprises the steps of:

(c1) receiving the vertex connectivity information, coordinate information of the IFS node as the related information, and key values, and generating differential values among all position values of the key values change in a 3D space;

5 (c2) extracting data redundancy in the differential values according to the spatial correlation among vertices based on the vertex connectivity information; and

(c3) Differential Pulse Code Modulation (DPCM) processing each of the keys extracted in step (a), and key values of which data redundancy due to the  
10 spatial correlation is extracted.

6. The encoding method of claim 5, wherein the number of key data items to be encoded and the total number of vertices in the IFS parsed from the node information as the related information are calculated and using the result of the  
15 calculation, differential values of key values are calculated.

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7. The encoding method of claim 5, wherein in step (c2) vertices are visited according to the search order of the vertex connectivity information, vertices adjacent to a visited vertex are defined, a vertex having high spatial correlation with the visited vertex is defined as a top vertex, the differential value of the 3D space position values of the two vertices is calculated, and the data redundancy is removed.

8. The encoding method of claim 1 wherein in the step (e) redundancy among bits is removed with respect to the probability of symbol occurrence.

9. The encoding method of claim 8, wherein a bit stream obtained the encoding method is formed at least with encoded key information and key value information, the key information is formed with a combination of the keys and key indicators for the keys, the key value information is arranged in order of key in a key frame, and key frames are formed according to the search order of the vertex connectivity information.

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10. An encoding method of deformation information of a 3-Dimensional (3D) object, in which information on vertices forming the shape of the 3D object is described by a key framing method for performing deformation of the 3D object, the encoding method comprising steps of:

5 (a) extracting keys indicating position of key frames on a time axis, key values indicating characteristics information of key frames, and relation information, by parsing node information of the 3D object;

(b) generating vertex connectivity information from the related information;

(c) quantizing the keys and key values;

10 (d) generating differential values of each of keys of which temporal data redundancy is to be removed, and quantized key values of which spatiotemporal data redundancy is to be removed, based on the vertex connectivity information; and

(e) removing redundancy among bits and generating compressed bit  
15 stream through entropy encoding, by receiving the differential values.

11. The encoding method of claim 10, wherein in step (a) node information is divided to a Coordinate Interpolator (CI) node and an IndexFaceSet (IFS) node, and field data formed with keys and key values are extracted from the CI node and  
20 Coordinate Index (Cidx) field data is extracted from the IFS node

12. The encoding method of claim 10, wherein in step (b) the Cidx field data extracted from the IFS node is received as the related information and Breadth  
25 First Search (BFS) information for defining spatial data correlation among vertices is formed as the vertex connectivity information.

13. The encoding method of claim 12, wherein in step (b) the Cidx field data is received and stored in a queue for each vertex, and the BFS information is generated based on whether or not each vertex is visited through the queue.

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14. The encoding method of claim 10, wherein the step (d) further comprises the steps of:

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- (d1) receiving the vertex connectivity information, coordinate information of the IFS node as the related information, and key values, and generating differential values among all position values of the key values change in a 3D space;
- 5 (d2) extracting data redundancy in the differential values according to the spatial correlation among vertices based on the vertex connectivity information; and
- (d3) Differential Pulse Code Modulation (DPCM) processing each of the keys extracted in step (a), and key values of which data redundancy due to the
- 10 spatial correlation is extracted.

- 15 15. The encoding method of claim 10, wherein a bit stream obtained the encoding method is formed at least with encoded key information and key value information, the key information is formed with a combination of the keys and the key indicators for keys, the key value information is arranged in order of key in a key frame, and key frames are formed according to the search order of the vertex connectivity information.

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16. An encoding method of deformation information of a 3-Dimensional (3D)  
20 object, in which information on vertices forming the shape of the 3D object is  
encoded by a key framing method for performing deformation of the 3D object, the  
encoding method comprising steps of:

(a) extracting keys indicating position of key frames on a time axis, key  
values indicating characteristics information of key frames, and relation  
25 information, by parsing node information of the 3D object;

(b) generating search start information of a Breadth First Search (BFS) for  
defining spatial data correlation among vertices of the 3D object;

(c) generating vertex connectivity information from the related information  
extracted in step (a) and the search start information generated in step (b);

30 (d) generating differential values of each key from which temporal data  
redundancy is removed, and key values from which spatiotemporal data  
redundancy is removed, based on the vertex connectivity information;

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- (e) quantizing the differential values;
- (f) receiving the quantized keys and key values, and generating the quantization step of encoding bits of the key values; and
- (g) receiving the quantization steps of encoding bits and removing  
5   redundancy among bits in the quantized values.

17.     The encoding method of claim 16, wherein in step (a) node information is divided into a Coordinate Interpolator (CI) node and an IndexFaceSet (IFS) node, and field data formed with keys and key values is extracted from the CI node and  
10   Coordinate Index (Cidx) field data is extracted from the IFS node

18.     The encoding method of claim 16, wherein step (b) comprises the steps of:

- (b1) obtaining the number of vertices connected to each of the vertices in  
15   response to connection information among vertices to be encoded;
- (b2) obtaining the index of a vertex which has the largest number of connected vertices among the numbers of vertices; and
- (b3) generating the vertex of the obtained index as the search start information.

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19. The encoding method of claim 16, wherein step (f) comprises the steps of:
- (f1) comparing a maximum value and a minimum value for each of the X, Y, and Z coordinates forming the quantized key values;
  - (f2) if the absolute value of the minimum value is less than or equal to the  
25 maximum value in each of the X, Y, and Z coordinates, outputting the quantization step of encoding bits as ;
  - (f3) if the absolute value of the minimum value is greater than the maximum value in each of the X, Y, and Z coordinates, outputting the quantization step of encoding bits as
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20. The encoding method of claim 16, wherein in step (g) redundancy among bits is removed with respect to the probability of symbol occurrence.



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21. The encoding method of claim 16, wherein the bit stream obtained by the encoding method comprises:

header information having the quantization size of the key values, the quantization step of encoding bits of X coordinates of the key values, the quantization step of encoding bits of Y coordinates of the key values, the quantization step of encoding bits of Z coordinates of the key values, the minimum values and maximum values which are used in normalizing differential values from the quantized keys and key values and values between 0 and 1 inclusive; and key value information according to the BFS search order.

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22. An encoding method of deformation information of a 3-Dimensional (3D) object, in which information on vertices forming the shape of the 3D object is encoded by a key framing method for performing deformation of the 3D object, the encoding method comprising steps of:

15 (a) extracting keys indicating position of key frames on a time axis, key values indicating characteristics information of key frames, and relation information, by parsing node information of the 3D object;

(b) generating search start information of a Breadth First Search (BFS) for defining spatial data correlation among vertices of the 3D object;

20 (c) generating vertex connectivity information from the related information

extracted in step (a) and the search start information generated in step (b);

(d) quantizing the keys and key values;

(e) generating differential values of each of quantized keys of which temporal data redundancy is removed, and quantized key values of which spatiotemporal data redundancy is removed, based on the vertex connectivity information;

(f) receiving the differential values and generating the quantization steps of encoding bits of the key values; and

(g) receiving the quantization steps of encoding bits and removing redundancy among bits in the quantized values.

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23. The encoding method of claim 22, wherein In step (a) node information is divided to a Coordinate Interpolator (CI) node and an IndexFaceSet (IFS) node, and field data formed with keys and key values are extracted from the CI node and Coordinate Index (Cidx) field data is extracted from the IFS node

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24. The encoding method of claim 22, wherein step (b) comprises the steps of:

(b1) obtaining the numbers of vertices connected to each of the vertices in response to connection information among vertices to be encoded;

- 10 (b2) obtaining the index of a vertex which has the largest number of connected vertices among the numbers of vertices; and

(b3) generating the vertex of the obtained index as the search start information.

- 15 25. The encoding method of claim 22, wherein step (f) comprises the steps of:

(f1) comparing a maximum value and a minimum value for each of the X, Y, and Z coordinates forming the quantized key values;

(f2) if the absolute value of the minimum value is less than or equal to the maximum value in each of the X, Y, and Z coordinates, outputting the quantization

- 20 step of encoding bits as ;

- 25 26. The encoding method of claim 22, wherein in step (g) redundancy among bits is removed with respect to the probability of symbol occurrence.

27.

The encoding method of claim 22, wherein the bit stream obtained by the encoding method comprises:

- 30 header information having the quantization size of the key values, the quantization step of encoding bits of X coordinates of the key values, the quantization step of encoding bits of Y coordinates of the key values, the

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quantization step of encoding bits of Z coordinates of the key values, the minimum values and maximum values which are used in normalizing differential values from the quantized keys and key values to values between 0 and 1 inclusive; and key value information according to the BFS search order.

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28. An encoding apparatus of deformation information of a 3-Dimensional (3D) object, in which information on vertices forming the shape of the 3D object is encoded by a key framing method for performing deformation of the 3D object, the encoding apparatus comprising:

10 a field data input unit for extracting keys indicating position of key frames on a time axis, key values indicating characteristics information of key frames, and relation information, by parsing node information of the 3D object;

a vertex connectivity processing unit for generating vertex connectivity information from the related information;

15 an Adaptive Differential Pulse Code Modulation (ADPCM) processing unit for generating differential values for each of the keys from which temporal data redundancy is removed, and key values from which spatiotemporal data redundancy is removed, based on the related information and the vertex connectivity information;

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20           a quantization unit for quantizing the differential values and outputting the quantized values; and

          an entropy encoding unit for receiving the quantized keys and key values and removing redundancy among bits.

25   29.     An encoding apparatus of deformation information of a 3-Dimensional (3D) object, in which information on vertices forming the shape of the 3D object is encoded by a key framing method for performing deformation of the 3D object, the encoding apparatus comprising:

          a field data input unit for extracting keys indicating position of key frames  
30   on a time axis, key values indicating characteristics information of key frames, and relation information, by parsing node information of the 3D object;  
          a quantization unit for quantizing the keys and key values;

          an Adaptive Differential Pulse Code Modulation (ADPCM) processing unit for generating differential values of the quantized keys from which temporal data redundancy is removed, and differential values of the quantized key values from which spatiotemporal data redundancy is removed, based on the related  
5   information and the vertex connectivity information;  
          an entropy encoding unit for removing redundancy among bits.

30. (Amended) The encoding apparatus of claim 28, wherein the field data input unit comprises:

          a parse for dividing node information into a Coordinate Interpolator (CI) node and an IndexFaceSet (IFS) node; and

          a demultiplexer for extracting field data formed with keys and key values from the CI node, and extracting Coordinate Index (CIIdx) field data from the IFS node.

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31. The encoding apparatus of claim 30, wherein the vertex connectivity processing unit receives the Cldx field data extracted from the IFS node as the related information and forms Breadth First Search (BFS) information for defining spatial data correlation among vertices as the vertex connectivity information.

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32. The encoding apparatus of claim 31, wherein the vertex connectivity processing unit receives the Cldx field data, stores the Cldx field data in a queue for each vertex, and generates the BFS information based on whether or not each vertex is visited through the queue.

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33. (Amended) The encoding apparatus of claim 28, wherein the ADPCM processing unit comprises:

a differential value generator for receiving the vertex connectivity information, coordinate information of the IFS node as the related information, and key values, and generating differential values among all position values of the key values change in a 3D space;

a predictor for extracting data redundancy in the differential values according to the spatial correlation among vertices based on the vertex connectivity information; and

Differential Pulse Code Modulation (DPCM) processors for DPCM processing each of keys, and key values of which data redundancy due to the spatial correlation is extracted.

34. (Amended) The encoding apparatus of claim 28, wherein the entropy encoding unit generates a bit stream from which redundancy among bits in the quantized values is removed using the probability of bit symbol occurrence.

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35. The encoding apparatus of claim 34, wherein the bit stream is formed at least with encoded key information and key value information, the key information is formed with a combination of the keys and key indicators for the keys, the key value information is arranged in order of key in a key frame, and key frames are  
15 formed according to the search order of the vertex connectivity information.

36. An encoding apparatus of deformation information of a 3-Dimensional (3D) object, in which information on vertices forming the shape of the 3D object is  
20 encoded by a key framing method for performing deformation of the 3D object, the encoding apparatus comprises:

a field data input unit for extracting keys indicating position of key frames on a time axis, key values indicating characteristics information of key frames, and relation information, by parsing node information of the 3D object;

25 a vertex connectivity processing unit for generating vertex connectivity information from the related information;

a start vertex generator for determining a start vertex of the vertex connectivity information from the related information;

30 an Adaptive Differential Pulse Code Modulation (ADPCM) processing unit for generating differential values of each of keys of which temporal data redundancy is removed, and key values of which spatiotemporal data redundancy

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- a quantization unit for quantizing the differential values;
- a quantization step generating unit for receiving the quantized keys and key values, and generating the quantization steps of encoding bits of X, Y, and Z coordinates of the quantized key values; and
- 5 an entropy processing unit for receiving the quantization steps of encoding bits of the X, Y, and Z coordinates, and removing redundancy among bits in the quantized values.

37. An encoding apparatus of deformation information of a 3-Dimensional (3D) object, in which information on vertices forming the shape of the 3D object is encoded by a key framing method for performing deformation of the 3D object, the encoding apparatus comprising:

- a field data input unit for extracting keys indicating position of key frames on a time axis, key values indicating characteristics information of key frames, and
- 15 relation information, by parsing node information of the 3D object;
- a vertex connectivity processing unit for generating vertex connectivity information from the related information;
- a start vertex generator for determining a start vertex of the vertex connectivity information from the related information;
- 20 a quantization unit for quantizing the keys and key values;

an Adaptive Differential Pulse Code Modulation (ADPCM) processing unit for generating differential values of the quantized keys of which temporal data redundancy is removed, and differential values of the quantized key values of which spatiotemporal data redundancy is removed, based on the vertex

25 connectivity information;

- a quantization step generating unit for generating the quantization steps of encoding bits of X, Y, and Z coordinates of the differentiated key values; and
- an entropy processing unit for receiving the quantization steps of encoding bits of the X, Y, and Z coordinates, and removing redundancy among bits in the
- 30 quantized values.

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38. (Amended) The encoding apparatus of claim 36, wherein the field data input unit comprises:

a parse for dividing node information into a Coordinate Interpolator (CI) node and an IndexFaceSet (IFS) node; and

a demultiplexer for extracting field data formed with keys and key values from the CI node, and extracting Coordinate Index (Cldx) field data from the IFS node.

39. The encoding apparatus of claim 38, wherein the start vertex generator  
10 obtains the index of a vertex which has the largest number of connected vertices  
among the numbers of vertices connected to each of all vertices in response to the  
Cldx field data, and generates the vertex of the obtained index as the start vertex.



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40. The encoding apparatus of claim 38, wherein the vertex connectivity  
15 processing unit receives the Cldx field data extracted from the IFS node as the  
related information, forms Breadth First Search (BFS) information for defining  
spatial data correlation among vertices as the vertex connectivity information,  
receives the start vertex information generated by the start vertex generator and  
generates BFS information by which search is performed from the start vertex.

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41. The encoding apparatus of claim 38, wherein the quantization step  
generating unit comprises:

a maximum and minimum calculating unit for receiving the key values,  
data corresponding to the first key frame of the CI node, and the vertex  
25 connectivity information, and outputting maximum values and minimum values of  
the X, Y, and Z coordinates of the key values; and

a quantization step generator for generating  
the quantization steps of encoding bits enough to express the ranges of quantized  
data corresponding to the X, Y, and Z coordinates.

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42. The encoding apparatus of claim 41, wherein the quantization step  
generator compares the maximum value and the minimum value of each of X, Y,

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and Z coordinates data items input from the maximum and minimum calculating  
unit, and if the absolute value of the minimum value is less than or equal to the  
maximum value, outputs the quantization step of encoding bits as

, and if the absolute value of the minimum value is  
5 greater than the maximum value, outputs the quantization step of encoding bits  
as

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43. (Amended) The encoding apparatus of claim 36, wherein the entropy processing unit removes the redundancy among bits in the quantized values, using the probability of bit symbol occurrence, and outputs the result as a bit stream.

44. The encoding apparatus of claim 43, wherein the bit stream comprises:  
header information having the quantization size of the key values, the  
15 quantization step of encoding bits of X coordinates of the key values, the  
quantization step of encoding bits of Y coordinates of the key values, the  
quantization step of encoding bits of Z coordinates of the key values, the minimum  
values and maximum values which are used in normalizing differential values from  
the quantizing unit to values between 0 and 1 inclusive; and  
20 key value information according to the BFS search order.

Kindly add new claims 45-49 as follows:

—45. (New) The encoding apparatus of 29, wherein the field data input unit  
comprises:  
a parse for dividing node information into a Coordinate Interpolator (CI) node and  
an IndexFaceSet (IFS) node; and  
a demultiplexer for extracting field data formed with keys and key values from the  
CI node, and extracting Coordinate Index (CIIdx) field data from the IFS node.

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46. (New) The encoding apparatus of 29, wherein the ADPCM processing unit comprises:

a differential value generator for receiving the vertex connectivity information, coordinate information of the IFS node as the related information, and key values, and generating differential values among all position values of the key values change in a 3D space;

a predictor for extracting data redundancy in the differential values according to the spatial correlation among vertices based on the vertex connectivity information; and

Differential Pulse Code Modulation (DPCM) processors for DPCM processing each of keys, and key values of which data redundancy due to the spatial correlation is extracted.

47. (New) The encoding apparatus of 29, wherein the entropy encoding unit generates a bit stream from which redundancy among bits in the quantized values is removed using the probability of bit symbol occurrence.

48. (New) The encoding apparatus of 37, wherein the field data input unit comprises:

a parse for dividing node information into a Coordinate Interpolator (CI) node and an IndexAccSet (IFS) node; and

a demultiplexer for extracting field data formed with keys and key values from the CI node, and extracting Coordinate Index (Cidx) field data from the IFS node.

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49. (New) The encoding apparatus of 37, wherein the entropy processing unit removes the redundancy among bits in the quantized values, using the probability of bit symbol occurrence, and outputs the result as a bit stream.--